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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 377  
By Bone

A RESOLUTION To honor and thank William A. Cammuse for his  
forty-eight years of service to the Tennessee Air  
National Guard.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should salute those noteworthy  
Tennesseans who, in their careers, have performed their duties with the utmost professionalism  
and distinction; and

WHEREAS, One such estimable Tennessean is William A. "Toopie" Cammuse; for forty-  
eight years, he has faithfully operated the snack bar for the Tennessee Air National Guard at  
Berry Field; and

WHEREAS, Born on March 21, 1920, Mr. Cammuse joined the National Guard in 1938;  
he was a member of Troop "E" of the 109<sup>th</sup> Calvary, based in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, When the Axis powers threatened the world, Mr. Cammuse and his unit  
answered the call of duty to protect and ensure the freedom of this nation and our world during  
World War II; a member of our "Greatest Generation," he achieved the rank of T-4 and earned 6  
ribbons and the Bronze Air Head; and

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WHEREAS, This gallant soldier landed on Red Beach at Morotas in September of 1944, where the action was so intense that there were 212 air raid alerts and 186 bombing raids within a span of four months; and

WHEREAS, Following his discharge in El Paso, Mr. Cammuse took a job working with the railroad, but his railroad career was ended by an accident that necessitated the amputation of his right foot; and

WHEREAS, With the assistance of Tennessee Air Guard personnel Paul Kerr, Charles Johnson, and CMS Hooper, "Toopie" Cammuse began operating a small snack bar at Berry Field in July of 1953; Major Leo Bolster, the Base Commander, doubted that Mr. Cammuse could handle the work, but, as time has proven, the Major could not have been more wrong; and

WHEREAS, Originally, Mr. Cammuse planned to operate the snack bar under Captain Sherman Hunt's oversight for only three months, but he has now prospered in the position for a remarkable forty-eight years, working eight to eleven hours on weekdays for more than thirty years; and

WHEREAS, During his nearly five decades at the base, Mr. Cammuse has earned the respect and appreciation of his customers due to the quality of his service and his products; he has also earned their admiration and friendship due to the quality of his character; and

WHEREAS, William A. Cammuse's culinary talents have long been praised by the Tennessee Air National Guard personnel; on several occasions, those same talents have delighted various dignitaries; and

WHEREAS, Toopie's customers at the snack bar have included a Saudi Arabian Sheik, baseball legend Dizzy Dean, and Colonel Swindell, the Air Force One Pilot who flew John F. Kennedy into Dallas, as President, and Lyndon B. Johnson out of the same city, as President, following President Kennedy's assassination; Dizzy Dean was so impressed by Mr. Cammuse's skill in preparing a ham and cheese sandwich that he ordered ten of them to take with him on his travels; and

WHEREAS, The snack bar has also been a destination for leaders of this State, including Governors Frank Clement and Ned Ray McWherter; Governor McWherter showed his appreciation by making Mr. Cammuse an honorary Tennessee Colonel, and Governor Clement gave “Toopie” the tables that are still being used in the snack bar today; and

WHEREAS, On at least four occasions, William A. Cammuse has laid claim to the title of “First Chef”; he has served four Presidents of the United States of America, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, and Bill Clinton; “Toopie” remembers President Johnson, with his Texas-style big white hat and boots, as the most distinguished dignitary that he ever served; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cammuse also served Vice President Al Gore, who displayed his gratitude by inviting “Toopie” to sit with him aboard Air Force Two; and

WHEREAS, Although he has met and served some of the most powerful men in the world, William A. Cammuse still draws his greatest professional pleasure from working daily with the men and women of the Tennessee Air National Guard; each morning, he awakes around three o’clock in anticipation of another fulfilling day at the base; and

WHEREAS, Always aware of the needs of his family, friends, and community, Mr. Cammuse has long been devoted to helping those around him in any way that he can; with little fanfare, he has provided food every Thursday for several years to Arlington Methodist Church to feed the homeless; and

WHEREAS, His professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Cammuse is thankful for the love and companionship that he has shared with his wife, Alice, since they were joined in holy matrimony in 1966; since 1982, they have also had the pleasure of working together, as she has assisted him at the snack bar; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to the highest ideals of family values, he is also the proud father of two children, John and Stephanie; and

WHEREAS, William A. Cammuse personifies the professionalism, values, and character that distinguish the true Tennessean; he serves as a meritorious example to the citizens of this State, and he is worthy of special recognition by this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we express our admiration for, and thanks to, William A. "Toopie" Cammuse for his forty-eight years of laudable service to the Tennessee Air National Guard and wish him much happiness and every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.